

Contact: Becky O'Neill | Teach For America
646.369.9374 | becky.oneill@teachforamerica.org

LOCAL LEADERS HEAD BACK TO SCHOOL FOR TEACH FOR AMERICA WEEK

*Mayors Wharton and Luttrell, Peabody Hotel 'Duckmaster,' and Meet the Browns Star Lamman Rucker
Among Prominent Citizens Serving as Guest Teachers to Raise Awareness of Educational Inequity*

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 29, 2013—Elected officials, local celebrities, and business executives from across the city will return to the classroom April 29–May 3 to celebrate Teach For America Week. Each year, Teach For America Week invites community leaders to serve as guest teachers in public school classrooms, engaging and inspiring students with lessons informed by their personal and professional experience. Confirmed participants this year include Memphis City Mayor AC Wharton, Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Peabody Hotel “Duckmaster” Anthony Petrina, *Meet the Browns* star Lamman Rucker, leaders from FedEx, and motivational speaking group The Three Doctors.

“We’re delighted that students will have a chance to engage with such a diverse, accomplished group,” said Athena Turner, executive director for Teach For America–Memphis. “By taking to the classroom, our local leaders inspire students to think big and work hard—all while raising broader awareness of the movement for educational excellence for all.”

“Being a former history teacher, I can certainly appreciate the efforts teachers have to put forth if they’re to be effective in the classroom,” Mayor Luttrell said. “Events like this help others appreciate the good work going on in schools throughout the region.”

Mayor Wharton said, “As a former college professor, I’ve always found the role of shaping young minds to be an honor. As our teachers know, interacting with young people is enlightening and rewarding and I appreciate this opportunity to connect with Memphis students.”

This year, nearly 300 Teach For America corps members are teaching in Memphis, reaching over 22,000 students, and close to 170 alumni of the program call the city home. This includes nine school leaders and many working across sectors to help ensure educational opportunity and access for students and families in low-income communities. Teach For America began partnering with Memphis schools and communities in 2006.

A growing body of research demonstrates the effectiveness of Teach For America corps members in the classroom. In 2012, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission report card identified Teach For America as one of the state’s most effective sources of teachers for the third year running. The report found that Teach for America corps members in Memphis and Nashville have a positive impact on student achievement across more evaluated subjects than teachers from any other preparation program. These findings are consistent with similar state-wide studies in [North Carolina](#) and [Louisiana](#).

Media RSVP for Guest Lessons (RSVP required)

Becky O'Neill

Managing Director, Regional Communications, Teach For America

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Confirmed Guest Teachers

April 29: Laurie Tucker, Senior Vice President of Marketing, FedEx (Soulsville Charter School)

April 30: The Three Doctors, Authors, Doctors, Motivational Speakers (Frayser High School)

May 1: Gloria Boyland, Vice President of Customer Experience, FedEx (Veritas College Prep)

May 2: Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Shelby County (Egypt Elementary School)

May 3: Mayor AC Wharton, City of Memphis (Manassas High School)

May 3: Lamman Rucker, Actor (Overton High School)

May 3: Doug Scarboro, Chief Learning Officer, City of Memphis (Manassas High School)

May 3: Neil Gibson, Vice President of Communications, FedEx (Memphis College Prep)

May 3: Anthony Petrina, Duckmaster, Peabody Hotel (Peabody Elementary School)

About Teach For America

Teach For America works in partnership with communities to expand educational opportunity for children facing the challenges of poverty. Founded in 1990, Teach For America recruits and develops a diverse corps of outstanding individuals of all academic disciplines to commit two years to teach in high-need schools and become lifelong leaders in the movement to end educational inequity. Today more than 10,000 corps members are teaching in 46 urban and rural regions across the country, while nearly 28,000 alumni are working across sectors to ensure that all children have access to an excellent education. For more information, visit www.teachforamerica.org and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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